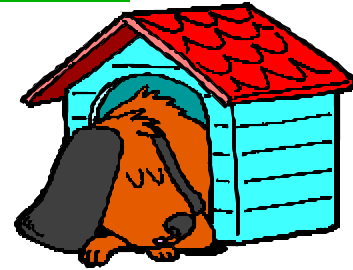
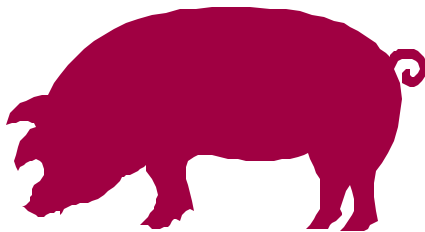
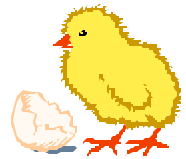
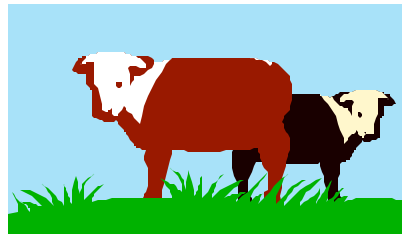
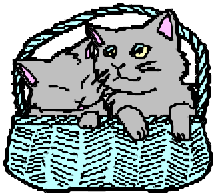


# Cumberland County

## Animal Protection Plan

A procedure to protect wild and domestic animal resources  
in the event of a large-scale emergency in Cumberland County



Developed By:

Cumberland County Emergency Management

North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County

And

Cumberland County Animal Control

May 2000

# Cumberland County Animal Protection Plan

## *Acknowledgements*

Cumberland County Emergency Management wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the following organizations and individuals in development of this plan.

Cumberland County Animal Control

North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County

Wake County Emergency Management

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose Statement:**

To protect wild and domesticated animal resources, the public health, the public food supply, the environment, and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of a large-scale emergency, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wind driven water, drought, fire, explosion, building collapse, commercial transportation accidents, chemical spills, nuclear power plant accidents, or other situations that cause animal sufferings.

### **1.2 Scope:**

This Plan is intended for use by local government to take immediate action in providing a means of care and control to minimize animal suffering in the event of a large-scale emergency. This action will be aimed at all animals that may need help whether such animals are owned, stray, domestic, or wild.

The Director of Emergency Management or authorized representative(s) may place into effect established plans and procedures and direct both the emergency and recovery aspects of the incident. He may deviate from these procedures when, in his judgement, immediate and direct action is necessary to protect the public safety.

## **2.0 Affected Agencies/Responsibilities**

### **2.1 Primary Agencies:**

#### **A. Cumberland County Animal Control**

1. Provide and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to protect domestic and nondomestic animals.

#### **B. Cumberland County Emergency Management**

1. Coordinate support agencies to manage animal protection in large-scale emergencies.
2. Activate the Emergency Operations Center, if necessary. Responsible for overall direction and control of the emergency incident.

#### **C. North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County**

1. Coordinate support agencies primarily focused on managing protection of non-domestic animals

## 2.2 **Support Agencies:**

### A. **Cumberland County Sheriff's Office**

Provide trained personnel and resources to assist in search and recovery efforts of animals in the impacted area.

### B. **Cumberland County Department of Environmental Services:**

Coordinate the disposal of deceased animals that may impact the public health. Provide services to control injuries / bites / diseases related to the protection of animals.

### C. **Cumberland County Veterinarian Association:**

Provide a list of available volunteers to aid in the protection of animals. When possible, provide personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to shelter and care for pets of evacuated citizens and in cases when established shelters are filled or destroyed.

### D. **American Red Cross:**

Provide volunteers to assist in the protection of animals during an emergency shelter situation. Work with Environmental Services personnel in the coordination of animal shelters in Cumberland County.

### E. **Municipal Animal Control:**

Provide personnel and equipment as required within the respective corporate limits to protect domestic and nondomestic animals.

### F. **N.C. Department of Agriculture:**

The N.C. Department of Agriculture (NCDA) will be responsible for the enforcement of state regulations concerning livestock health and the movements of animals affected by those regulations. NCDA will also assist in providing information and direction whenever possible with regard to the general health of livestock in these areas.

### G. **NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine:**

Provide a list of available volunteers to aid in the protection of animals. When possible, provide personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to shelter and care for livestock, wild animals, and injured domestic and nondomestic animals.

### H. **SPCA of Cumberland County:**

Coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to shelter and care for domestic pets.

## 2.3 **Additional Resources:**

### A. **North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association:**

Provide personnel to aid in the medical treatment of animals. Activate regional Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT).

### B. **Humane Society of the United States:**

Provide personnel and equipment as required to rescue and care for domestic and nondomestic animals.

### C. **American Humane Association:**

Provide personnel and equipment as required to rescue and care for domestic and nondomestic animals.

### D. **N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission:**

Provide personnel and equipment as required to protect wildlife.

### E. **Private Boarding Kennels, Stables, Dog Clubs, and Horse Clubs:**

Provide personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to shelter and care for pets from evacuated citizens and in cases when established animal shelters are filled or destroyed.

### F. **Private Farms:**

Provide shelter and supplies to care for displaced livestock.

### G. **Pinehurst Harness Track / Moore County Equine Emergency Response Unit:**

Provide shelter, supplies and a Horse Rescue Ambulance to care for and rescue displaced livestock.

## 3.0 **Assumptions**

- A. The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an upcoming emergency, will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their care and/or control.
- B. Natural, technological, or manmade disaster could affect the well-being of domesticated or nondomesticated animals.
- C. The County plans for emergency situations and to carry out response and recovery operations utilizing local resources. Outside animal care and rescue

assistance would likely be available in most large-scale emergencies affecting the county.

- D. Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. These plans may include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, communicate information on the public, and proper animal release.
- E. Public information statements will be issued through the various media outlets. This will include locations where domestic and nondomestic animals (including livestock and wild animals) may be accepted during emergency situations.
- F. A large-scale emergency in Cumberland County may warrant immediate response from State and Local personnel, agencies, and organizations. However, emergency situations may become compounded due to the nature of the emergency and also require activation of additional specialized agencies through mutual aid.
- G. Through practical animal protection planning and organization, disaster relief efforts will be more effective.

## **4.0 Concept of Operations**

### **4.1 General:**

- A. The primary and support agencies identified in this Standard Operating Procedure will manage and coordinate local animal protection activities. These agencies will use established animal protection and support organizations, processes, and procedures. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs in the event of a large-scale emergency lies primarily with the Cumberland County Animal Control, Cumberland County Emergency Management and local incident coordinators.
- B. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter material, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals will be transmitted from the local Emergency Management Office to the State Emergency Management Office. Should the need for Federal or State resources exist, the state Emergency Operations Center will coordinate the request for assistance.
- C. Animal protection operations will be managed under an Incident Command System (ICS). Public Health concerns will be managed in accordance with appropriate Cumberland County plans and procedures.
- D. Animals Included Under the Plan:
  - 1. The sheltering and protection of domestic and nondomestic animals (including livestock) are the responsibility of their owners.

2. Domestic and non-domestic animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, and/or in danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of municipal or Cumberland County Animal Control officials, the SPCA of Cumberland County, or other identified agencies. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and, when possible, returned to their owners. Animals that cannot be returned to their owners will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.
3. Wild animals should be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are in danger either to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission personnel, in cooperation with local animal control officials, and returned to their natural habitat when practical.

#### 4.2 **Notification:**

This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a large-scale emergency causing a significant need for animal protection. The Cumberland County Animal Control Director in cooperation with the Cumberland County Emergency Management will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies. A call down notification system will be maintained by the Cumberland County Animal Control Director.

#### 4.3 **Communications:**

Communications between primary and support agencies will occur primarily through radio, telephone, facsimile and cellular telephone transmission. Amateur radio may be used as a backup system when other communications fail due to the nature of the emergency situation.

#### 4.4 **Public Information (PI):**

The Cumberland County Public Information Officer or designated representative will be responsible for the coordination of all media activities and press releases associated with the protection of animals.

Public Information responsibilities may include:

1. Notifying the public of appropriate animal shelters that are receiving lost/stray animals, animals that cannot be cared for, or animals that need immediate medical assistance.
2. Delivering instructions to the public on how to prepare their pets for an impending emergency (See attached Annex A) and/or instructions for minor "at home" medical responses for pets injured in an emergency situation (Annex to be developed).

3. Initiating a system to direct inquires on lost pets to the appropriate animal shelters.
4. Other information as appropriate to the situation.

#### 4.5 **Response:**

The owners of pets and/or livestock, when notified of an emergency, will take all reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their control.

##### A. **Search and Rescue**

###### 1. **Domestic Pets:**

Domestic pets loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of municipal and County Animals Control officials.

###### 2. **Livestock:**

Livestock loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of municipal and County Animal Control officials.

###### 3. **Wild Animals:**

Wild animals out of their natural habitat that are endangering either themselves or the human population will be the responsibility of N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission personnel in cooperation with municipal and County Animal Control officials.

###### 4. **Stranded Animals:**

In the event that animals cannot be rescued due to the emergency situation, food and medical assistance may be delivered to the animals by the appropriate agency when possible.

###### 5. **Additional Aid:**

In the event that municipal and County animal control resources are unable to meet the need for search and rescue personnel, a representative from County Emergency Management will request search and rescue assistance from the American Humane Association and/or the Humane Society of the United States and/or other available rescue groups.

## **B. Shelters**

### **1. Evacuated Domestic Pets:**

#### **a. Private Resources:**

Domestic pets from evacuated citizens will be sheltered at private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals as close to the evacuation shelters as possible.

Upon the activation of evacuation shelters for citizens, a representative from the Cumberland County Veterinarian's Association will be contacted by the shelter manager and requested to initiate the opening of prearranged private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals as boarding facilities.

Each of the citizens' evacuation shelters will have an available veterinarian volunteer on the premises to evaluate the pets of evacuated citizens. Pets with significant injuries or illnesses will be transported to an animal hospital designated for the medical treatment of animals.

A representative of Cumberland County Animal Control will be responsible for ensuring the transportation of evacuated pets to either the shelter facility or hospital and in ensuring that a tracking system is in place to reunite sheltered pets with their rightful owners.

#### **b. Animal Evacuation Shelter:**

If the need arises, the county may open an evacuated pet shelter. Pets of evacuated citizens will be transported to this shelter as citizens arrive with their pets at the citizen's evacuation shelters.

#### **c. Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs:**

Citizens with special needs (individuals with mental or physical handicaps who require evacuation assistance) may require assistance in evacuating their pets.

If special needs individuals are unwilling or unable to make special arrangements for the sheltering of their pets, then the individuals and their pets will be transported to the evacuation shelter. Upon arrival at the shelter, pets not trained specifically to assist the individual (e.g. seeing eye dogs) will be transported to a private boarding facility or other appropriate facility. In the event that the individual and the pet cannot be separated due to the individual's infirmity, the pet will be sheltered in the same facility in a separate room or area.

**2. Stray/Lost Domestic Pets:**

All stray/lost domestic pets recovered by Animal Control will be sheltered at the Cumberland County Animal Shelter or the SPCA of Cumberland County shelter. Any pets whose owners cannot care for their pets or domestic pets found by citizens will also be sheltered at these locations. Private boarding kennels and veterinarian shelters will serve as overflow shelters and will be requested to open through the Cumberland County Association representative as necessary. Unclaimed animals will be disposed of according to county procedures.

**3. Evacuated and Stray/Lost Livestock:**

Due to the size of most livestock and the inability to transport large numbers of farm animals, owners are expected to develop shelter and/or evacuation plans for their animals.

When possible, livestock may be sheltered at the veterinary hospital at the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, private stables, the Hunt Horse Complex and the Pinehurst Harness Track.

Private farms located throughout the county may be used as shelter facilities for livestock. In the event of an emergency situation, Cumberland County Cooperative Extension will contact prearranged farms and request their assistance in sheltering operations.

**4. Wild Animals:**

When possible, wild animals outside of their natural habitat endangering the public, will be transported back to their natural habitat. If the responsible agencies are unable to transport the animal back to its natural habitat due to the nature of the emergency or to injuries the animal sustained, the animals will either be transported to the County Animal Control Shelter or the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine for shelter or medical treatment or disposal in accordance with established animal control procedures.

**5. Incapacitation of Shelters:**

In the event that established shelters are destroyed or incapable of functioning due to the nature of the emergency situation, private boarding kennels, stables, veterinarian hospitals, and the Pinehurst Harness Track may be requested to open as boarding and/or medical facilities. In rare cases, during large-scale emergencies, animals may be moved outside Cumberland County for care and protection.

**6. Staff/supplies:**

**a. Staff:**

Private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals are responsible for the staffing of their own boarding facilities and will be compensated by the citizens who use the animal shelter according to the established policies of the animal shelter unless other arrangements have been made.

Remaining animal shelters and hospitals will be staffed with available personnel from Cumberland County Animal Control/SPCA of Cumberland County and with volunteer veterinarians and veterinarian assistants. These shelters, in cooperation with the Cumberland County Veterinarian Association and the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, will develop and routinely update lists of available veterinarian and veterinarian assistant volunteers.

Each individual animal shelter will be responsible for developing the work schedules for employees and volunteers.

**b. Supplies:**

Each animal shelter will identify resources for potable water, food, medical, cleaning and shelter supplies in advance of an emergency situation.

Prearranged domestic and nondomestic animal food companies, medical suppliers, water suppliers and cleaning product suppliers will be contacted and requested to begin the shipment of supplies to an established delivery point. The delivery point will serve as a storage center and a distribution center for shelters and hospitals.

If the need arises, resource agencies (e.g. kennel clubs) may be requested to donate cages and other various shelter supplies.

**C. Medical:**

**1. Hospitals:**

The Cumberland County Animal control will coordinate the resources for a medical facility for domestic animals which cannot be accommodated by the various shelters due to the animal's injuries. The veterinary hospital at the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine and private medical shelters may provide facilities as space permits.

**2. Staff:**

Volunteers from the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine and from the Cumberland County Veterinarian Association and others will assist in providing staff to identified shelters.

Depending on the extent of the emergency situation, volunteers or Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams from the American Veterinary Medical Association may be requested to assist in the medical treatment of domestic and non-domestic animals.

**D. Bites/Disease Control:**

The Cumberland County Department of Environment Services will make no-cost vaccinations available to rescue and shelter personnel and will insure that treatment of bites and injuries is available to affected persons.

Outbreaks of rabies is a serious threat during an emergency situation. Appropriate steps to control that threat will be implemented by the Cumberland County Department of Environmental Services.

**4.6 Recovery:**

**A. Release/Destruction:**

**1. Domestic Pets/livestock:**

Cumberland County Animal Control will support efforts to identify owners of stray/lost animals. If owners cannot be found, Animal Control and SPCA of Cumberland County representatives will attempt to adopt or sell the animals according to established procedures.

Animals for which no owners can be found and which cannot be placed in adoptive care or sold will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

**2. Wild Animals:**

Cumberland County Animal Control in cooperation with the N.C. Wildlife Commission will support efforts to reintroduce wild animals back to their natural habitats.

**B. Disposal of Animal carcasses:**

Disposal of deceased animals will be the responsibility of the Cumberland County Department of Environmental Services. They will arrange for disposal of:

1. Euthanized animals
2. Animals killed in the emergency situation

## **5.0 Review and Update**

This procedure will be reviewed and updated as appropriate by Cumberland County Emergency Management, Cumberland County Animal Control, and other affected agencies.

This procedure will be periodically tested by an appropriate exercise method or in the event of an actual emergency disaster affecting Cumberland County.

Effective Date: May 2000

## **6.0 Approval**

### **6.1 Primary Agencies:**

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Cumberland County Animal Control

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Director, Cumberland County  
Emergency Management

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Cumberland County Cooperative Extension

### **6.2 Support Agencies**

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Cumberland County Veterinary Assoc.

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SPCA of Cumberland County

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American Red Cross

## **Annex A**

### **Cumberland County Disaster Planning For Pets, Livestock, and Wildlife**

#### **Domestic Pets**

- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND**. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own, and if by chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers -- -- they will be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash or harness for your pet so that if the animal panics, it cannot escape.
- Take pet food, bottle water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they are not available later.
- Make sure you have a copy of your pets medical records. If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels, animals shelters, and veterinarians require that your pets vaccinations are current.
- If it is impossible to take your pet with you to temporary shelter, contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for care. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany your pet to it s foster home.

#### **Livestock**

- Evacuate livestock whenever possible. The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment and facilities.
- If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter.
- All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return.

## **Wildlife**

- Wild animals often seek higher ground which, during floods, eventually become submerged (i.e., island) and the animals become stranded. If the island is large enough to provide suitable shelter, you can leave food appropriate to the species. Animals have a flight response and will flee from anyone approaching too closely. If the animal threatens to rush into the water, back away from the island.
- Wildlife often seek refuge from flood water on upper levels of a home and many remain even after the water recedes. If you meet a rat or snake face to face, be careful but don't panic. Open a window or other escape route and the animal will probably leave on its own. Never attempt to capture a wild animal unless you have the training, protective clothing, restraint equipment and caging necessary to perform the job.
- Beware of an increased number of snakes and other predators who will try to feed on the carcasses of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals who have been drowned or crushed in their burrows and under rocks.
- Often, during natural disasters, mosquitoes and dead animal carcasses may present disease problems. Outbreaks of anthrax, encephalitis and other diseases may occur. Contact your local emergency management office for help.

## **Further Assistance**

- If you see any injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, or if you have any other questions or concerns about animal protection during an emergency situation, contact the Cumberland County Animal Control at (910) 483-9284.